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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 January 1994 from H.E. Mr. Vladislav Jovanovic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the joint declaration signed on 19 January 1994 by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

I have the honour to inform you and the members of the Security Council that, as the first step towards normalization of their relations, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia signed the joint declaration in Geneva on 19 January 1994.

As it is evident from the text of the declaration, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia will be guided in the process of normalization of their mutual relations by the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects that these principles will be respected and equitably treated in full. In this context, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia understands that the signing of the said declaration will not bring into question the respect for the right of peoples to self-determination as one of the fundamental rights enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

The joint declaration is an expression of the desire and preparedness of the two countries to solve all outstanding issues in the former Yugoslavia by peaceful means and through negotiations. The same spirit prevails in the Joint Declaration of the representatives of the Republic of Srpska and the Republic of Herzeg-Bosna. This declaration is not directed against the third party involved in Bosnia and Herzegovina which can, if it so wishes, improve its relations with the Serb and Croat sides in a similar manner.

The declaration of the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia can only have a positive effect on putting an end to the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina since it firmly determines the position of the two sides, absolutely committed to peace.

The act of the signing of the declaration does not formally establish diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia, neither is it an act of mutual formal recognition. However, the two countries demonstrate that this is the goal to which they aspire and which will be attainable when the remaining issues in Serbo-Croatian relations have been resolved. By the same token, this means that the said declaration does not prejudice the question of the final status of the Republic of Serbian Krajina. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that this question should be resolved through negotiations between the Governments of Croatia and the Republic of Serbian Krajina, as the legitimate representative of the Serb people in the United Nations Protected Areas, in accordance with the provisions of the Vance plan.

While signing the joint declaration, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was guided by the assessment that the peaceful settlement of outstanding issues and stable relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia are of enormous importance for peace and security in the entire region. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is prepared to take other measures as well, in the spirit of strengthening mutual trust and in compliance with the relevant document and principles of the United Nations and other international organizations.

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